IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following paragraph:

a1

This is a continuation of International Application PCT/JP99/04415, with an international filing date of August 16, 1999, and further claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 10-275285 filed September 29, 1998.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 15, as follows:

a2

A communication request ~~occurred~~ occurring in an access request processing device is passed to the decision means via a liaising means after the authentication means verifies the requester. The decision means refers to a result of verification of the requester and a policy about the requestee and decides a process for the request. As mentioned above, information in the first and second storing means is referred to ~~according to need~~ as necessary, to decide a process for the request.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11, as follows:

a3

Each user can set attributes of other users requesting communication from him for attribute assigning policy. An attribute is friend, colleague, supervisor, or the like. By setting a requester of a processing policy to a set attribute, classification criteria in ~~case that~~ which each user classifies other users can be freely set.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 24 as follows:

a4

For example, if the above-mentioned decision means selects a process "inquire of the requestee," the inquiry means inquires of the requestee's terminal whether to authorize the request. Furthermore the inquiry means obtains an answer to the inquiry from the user terminal. The decision means authenticates or ~~reject~~ rejects a process for the request according to the obtained answer. This inquiry and obtaining of the answer may be performed with user terminals directly or via a communication device.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18, as follows:

For example, if "company name" of the requester is not registered in the first storing means in the above-mentioned example, the request directing means inquires the company name of the requester terminal and ~~obtain~~ obtains an answer to the inquiry. The inquiry is preferably performed via the above-mentioned communication device. This is because the requester is assumed to use the communication device at that time. However, by installing an answer means for an access request processing device in the requester terminal, the access request processing device can directly ~~inquires~~ inquire of the requester terminal.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 5, as follows:

When the relay terminal ~~performed~~ performs a process "inquire" for the communication request, the replying means receives inquiry by the relay terminal, reports the inquiry to the user, and accepts the answer of the user. Furthermore the answer means sends the inputted answer to the relay terminal.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 18, as follows:

The first storing means stores information on a requester requesting the above-mentioned information. The second storing means stores a status of a requestee in relation to the above-mentioned information requested by the above-mentioned requester. The third storing means stores a processing policy where a process for a request of the above-mentioned information according to the above-mentioned requester requesting the above-mentioned information, a status of the above-mentioned requestee in relation to the above-mentioned information, and the above-mentioned information to be requested is set for information. The authentication means verifies the above-mentioned requester of the above-mentioned information when the above-mentioned information request occurs. The liaising means acquire the above-mentioned requester and the above-mentioned information to be requested from the above-mentioned information providing device. The decision means ~~obtain~~ obtains the above-mentioned processing policy according to the above-mentioned information to be requested acquired by the above-mentioned liaising means, refers to the above-mentioned information on the above-mentioned requester and a status of the above-mentioned requestee in relation to the above-mentioned information to be requested according to a result of the above-mentioned verification and the above-mentioned processing policy obtained, decides a process for the above-mentioned request, and reports the above-mentioned process to the above-mentioned information providing device.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 18, as follows:

a8

Fig. 6 is an explanatory diagram showing an example of ~~static data of users~~ a setting window of the policy setting module shown in FIG. 1;

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 5, as follows:

a9

Fig. 10 is a conceptual explanatory diagram of ~~a~~ an information providing policy;

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 20, as follows:

a10

Attributes of access requesters are freely set to the attribute assigning policy. In other words, each user can freely set attributes to other users. Herein attributes are relationship between users not read from below-mentioned static data of users such as "friend" and "colleague." The user A sets the attribute of user B to "supervisor" and the attribute of user C to "friend" in the attribute assigning policy in Fig. 3. Each user sets processing policy and attribute assigning policy for the policy-storing table 6 with below-mentioned policy setting module 21 of a user terminal. Setting attribute assigning policy allows processing of a communication request according to not only statuses of communication requesters but also relationship among users from a viewpoint of a requestee.

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 61, line 14, as follows:

a11

In the above-mentioned second embodiment, personal information of each user stored in the static data-storing table 8 can be provided. In this case, personal information data providing policy is set so that each user can set disclosure level of each item of his static data according to relationship with another user. Fig. 13 shows an example of a personal ~~data~~ information providing policy. However, assume that static data to be disclosed are previously set according to each disclosure level.